



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re of Application of: RACIE et al.  
Application No.: 10/057,487      Group Art No.: 1652  
Filed: January 25, 2002      Examiner: SLOBODYANSKY  
For: AGGRECANASE MOLECULES  
Confirmation No.: 3565  
Customer Number: 25291

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR §1.10**

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Date

*Elizabeth Ruzich*  
Elizabeth Ruzich

MAR 14 2003

1600/2900

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT, RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND CHANGE OF  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to the Office communication mailed on February 19, 2003. Prior to examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 14 and 16 as follows:

14. (amended) A purified aggrecanase polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8.
16. (amended) A purified aggrecanase polypeptide produced by the steps of
- a) culturing a cell transformed with a DNA molecule comprising a DNA sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7;
  - and
  - b) recovering and purifying from said culture medium a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8.

REMARKS

Applicants hereby elect Group V (claims 14 and 16) for prosecution in the present application with traverse. As stated in the MPEP at §803, "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." The search and examination of this application do not constitute a serious burden because of the close relationship among the sequences. Applicants therefore request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.